

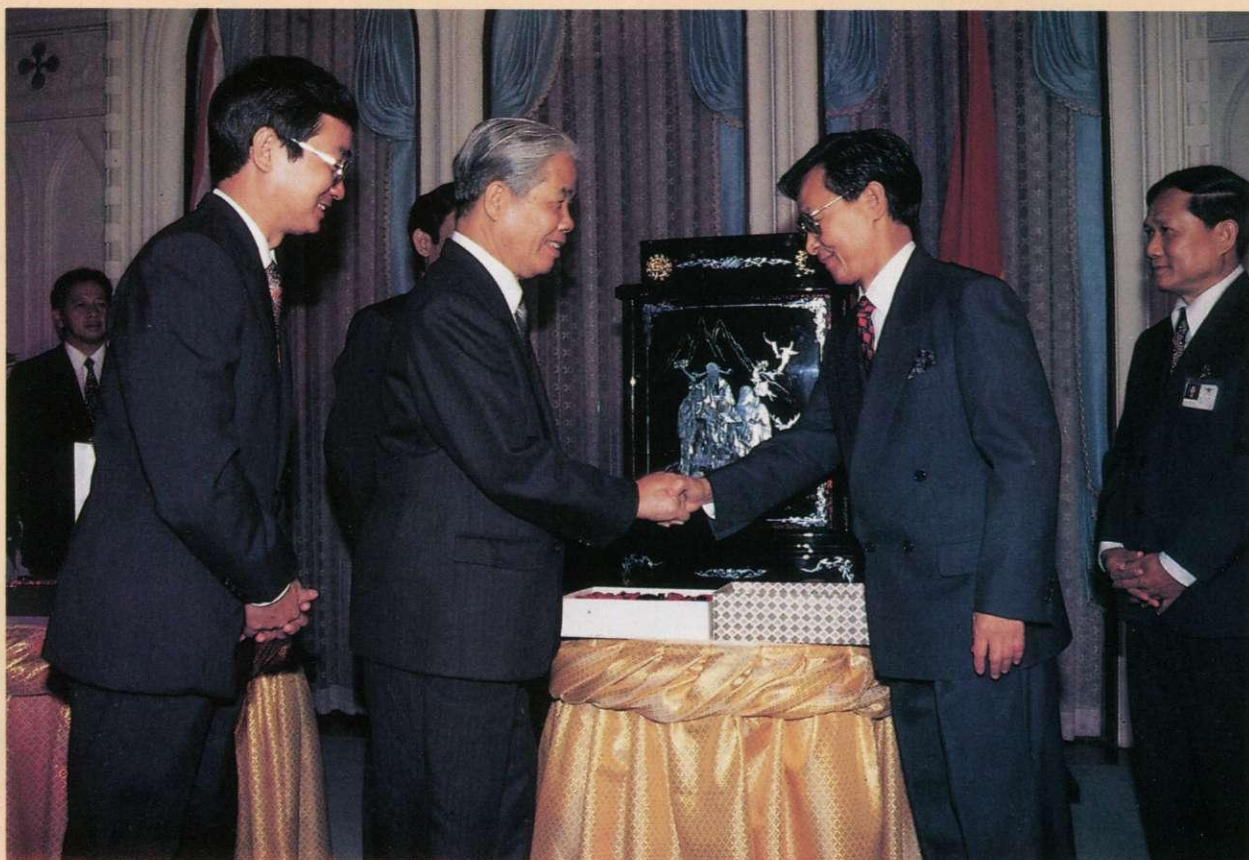
The 49th National Day of **VIETNAM**

PUBLICATION OF THE NATION

ฉบับพิเศษ กรุงเทพมหานคร



Late President Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969)
"Nothing is more precious than Independence and Freedom"



Mr. Chuan Leekpai, the Prime Minister, greets Vietnamese Communist Party leader Do Muoi during his official visiting to Thailand on October 15, 1993.

Message from the Ambassador

On the occasion of the 49th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I have the great honour to extend, on behalf of the Government and people of Vietnam, our warmest greetings and best wishes to Their Majesties the King and the Queen, the Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The relations between our two countries in recent years, especially over the past year up to now, have witnessed significant developments in various areas.

The historic visit of General Secretary Do Muoi to Thailand in October 1993 and the visit to Vietnam of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai in March 1994 marked a profound change of period in the relations between the two countries. The good results of those visits constitute a great impetus for the process of building mutual confidence and understanding, for the realization of the political will of the two countries' leaders and the aspiration of the two peoples in strengthening the friendly relations and mutually beneficial co-operation. A series of exchange of visits and activity of bilateral co-operation by legislative, administrative, security, defence, economic, cultural, scientific and technological branches of the two countries have been taking place, and most recently there has been a visit to Vietnam by the Thai Defence Minister and a visit to Thailand by the Vietnamese Interior Minister. All the above-mentioned activities have created new vitality and fresh atmosphere for the multi-faceted Thai-Vietnamese relations.

The economic relation between the two countries has also made encouraging rapid developments. The trade volume between the two countries has been increasing constantly; various co-operation, investment and joint venture projects of Thai companies and corporations in Vietnam have been expanded both in quantity and areas.

Both countries have expressed their good-will and willingness to solve the remaining issues with a view to promote bilateral relations. In September 1994, Vietnam and Thailand together with Laos and Cambodia will hold discussions in order to reach an agreement of documents concerning co-operation on the Mekong River; The Viet-Thai Joint Committee on fishing co-operation and sea order, and the Economic Joint Committee of the two countries will meet by the end of this year. The Thai Government and people have extended practical assistance in technology and training to Vietnam and recently, the Thai Government strongly supported Vietnam in its bid to join ASEAN.

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government and people, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Government and people of Thailand for their generous and valuable assistance in the development of Vietnam.

The strong development of friendly relations and co-operation between Vietnam and Thailand is a pressing need of both sides for the growth and prosperity of each country. It also meets the sincere aspirations of the two peoples for peace, stability and development co-operation in the whole region. Both sides are now preparing actively for their bilateral relations under the new situation in which Vietnam and Thailand being not only two friendly neighbouring countries with close co-operation, but also two official members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). I am fully confident in a bright future of Vietnamese-Thai relations.

We welcome and thank the ASEAN countries for their unanimous readiness to accept Vietnam as an official member of ASEAN.



The top priority in the policy of Vietnam is to create favourable conditions for the development of the country. First of all, Vietnam needs a stable environment followed by capital, technology and management. Hence, Vietnam has been constantly pursuing a foreign policy of openness in which great importance has been attached to the relations with countries in the region.

Vietnam acceded to the Bali Treaty and became an observer of ASEAN in 1992. Since then, Vietnam has been participating step by step in ASEAN economic-commercial activities in its six committees and five projects. In the economic-commercial field, the relations between Vietnam and ASEAN also have been very active. In the first six months of 1994, the trade volume between Vietnam and ASEAN surpassed US\$ 1,000 million. Exports to ASEAN accounted for 60 per cent of Vietnam's total export value while investment capital from ASEAN made up more than 15 per cent of the total foreign investment capital in Vietnam.

ASEAN is a strong and dynamic regional organization, operating with the motto of "unity of diversity", mutually beneficial co-operation based on the principle of respecting the independence, sovereignty and national character of each member country. The joining of ASEAN by Vietnam is in the interests of Vietnam and other countries in the region, since it helps in promoting closer and broader co-operation, adding to the bilateral co-operation among these countries with the multilateral Vietnam-ASEAN co-operation. Vietnam's membership of ASEAN will not affect relations between Vietnam and other countries, nor will it damage the interests of any third country.

At the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July 1994, together with the declaration of their readiness to accept Vietnam in ASEAN, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers formed a working group of senior officials from ASEAN countries and ASEAN Secretariat chaired by the ASEAN General Secretary in order to co-ordinate and assist Vietnam in its preparations. There was also a common understanding at the Meeting that Vietnam could become a full member of ASEAN in 1995. To achieve that objective, there is considerable work to be done in order to speed up the process of preparations. Firstly, it is necessary to continue to study more thoroughly and get to know more, the whole organizational structure, regulations, procedures and operational mechanism of ASEAN. Equally important is to prepare a large number of personnel at all levels and branches with sufficient capability and enough knowledge of the English language to participate in all activities of the various committees and attend hundreds of meetings of ASEAN annually. But I am confident that with the assistance and co-operation of ASEAN, Vietnam will soon complete the preparations to officially join ASEAN.

The history of Southeast Asia over the past decades has many misunderstandings and distrust, and even confrontation against each other. Vietnam's membership of ASEAN is an indication that a new era has begun in Southeast Asian history which will be an era of regional integration and co-operation. And, it will bring about genuine, real and great interests for each country and the whole region.

LE CONG PHUNG
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Increasing Developments of Relationship between the Vietnamese People's Army and the Royal Thai Armed Forces

*Sr. Colonel Nguyen Bach Van
Military, Naval and Air Attache*

On 2nd of September 1994, the whole Vietnamese people are very happy to celebrate the 49th anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In 1994, the Vietnamese People's Army also reaches the age of 50. Over the past 50 years, under its original name "The Vietnam Army for Propaganda and Liberation" formed December 22, 1944, under its leader Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese People's Army, bearing in mind the truth of "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" and with the spirit of "dedicating its whole life for the country and people," has come of age with great achievements in the cause of struggling for national independence, constructing and safeguarding the Fatherland.

Nowadays, under the circumstances of new major developments in the world as well as in the region, the Vietnamese People's Army upholding the tradition of Patriotism, loving the people and faithful to the Fatherland, has been striving to serve effectively for the renovation of the country and successfully fulfill its sacred task of safeguarding and building the country. In the field of foreign relations, together with the people throughout the country, the Vietnamese People's Army is trying its utmost to carry out the state's foreign policy of openness and friendship toward all countries in the world in order to strengthen the friendly relations and co-operation with the armed forces of other countries in the world, especially neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific in the interest of stability, peace and co-operation for development in the region and all over the world. A sound source of evidence of the above-mentioned policy is that in recent years the relationship between Vietnam and Thailand in general and between the Vietnamese People's Army and the Royal Thai Armed Forces, in particular, have been rapidly developing and consolidating.

Since 1990, the countries' armies have exchanged visits of high-ranking officials and specially in 1992, the two countries officially established their military attache offices in Hanoi and Bangkok, marking a new step of development in the relationship between the two armies.

The visits to Vietnam by Royal Thai Army Supreme Commanders-in-

Chief in the years 1990, '91 and '92, by Army Commander-in-Chief General Wimol Wongwanich in 1993 and by Defense Minister General Vijit Sookmark in 1994, together with the visits to Thailand by General Chiefs of Staff of the Vietnamese People's Army General Doan Khue and General Dao Dinh Luyen in 1990 and 1993 respectively, constitute significant steps in the friendly relations and co-operation between the armies of the two countries. Notably, the visits to Vietnam by HRH Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn and HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, and the meeting of the Crown Prince with the Vietnamese Army's leaders further enhanced mutual confidence and understanding, opening new prospects in relations between the two sides. Relations between the Vietnamese People's Army and the Royal Thai Armed Forces have not only been limited to the exchange of visits by senior leaders and generals of the two sides, but have also been expanded down to various branches, levels, military schools and academies through visits aimed at exchanging of training experiences and other co-operation activities.

The friendship and co-operation between the Vietnamese People's Army and the Royal Thai Armed Forces is a common need of both sides under the new circumstances. Such a good relation has been one of many important factors in the building of mutual confidence and understanding as well as a friendly relationship between the two neighboring countries. The relationship between the armed forces of the two countries is also an indispensable factor for the development and prosperity of the two nations for peace, stability, and co-operation in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific.

In my position as the first military, naval and air attache of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the Kingdom of Thailand, I am very pleased with the bright prospect for the development of political, economic, diplomatic, and military relations between our two countries. And on this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my most sincere greeting of friendship and co-operation to all generals, officers, and enlisted men of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.



Air Force Training

Vietnam Airlines in the Process of Renovation

Vietnam Airlines - the national flag carrier of Vietnam - was established five years ago in 1989 but has been quickly gaining attention as a rising competitive and successful airline in Southeast Asia.

Vietnam, with its open-door policy, is now in an overall renovation process. Vietnam Airlines has become a precious bridge linking Vietnam with all countries in the world. It has made every effort in renewing itself to meet the growing needs of transportation.

Vietnam Airlines is now flying to 18 overseas and 14 domestic destinations. From July 1st, 1994, regular services to Berlin, Paris and Dubai have been put into operation and by the end of this year, regular services to Japan will be started. Together with China Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways, Korean Air, Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines..., Vietnam Airlines has run successfully in joint venture flights on some international routes.

In recent years, Vietnam Airlines has invested tens of millions of US dollars in improving its services, ground facilities as well as personnel training. It began to use the GABRIEL II reservation system in 1991 and is



now planning to join the ABACUS and other global distribution systems. Its computer system is also being upgraded to facilitate document management, ticketing and check-in services. Phone booking is now accepted. Besides, Vietnam Airlines is now upgrading its flight services, ground handling and catering standards. Its fleet has been developed with much more comfortable and popular jets like BOEING and AIRBUS. The fleet now includes two ATR 72, seven AIRBUS and two BOEING 767 aircraft piloted by western chartered crews. In its long-term development plan, Viet-

nam Airlines will increase the number of big and modern aircraft such as BOEING and AIRBUS to operate on various regional and transcontinental routes. Attention has also been paid to the training and retraining of Vietnamese flight crews and technicians in western countries such as France and Australia.

Vietnam Airlines is now making a vast potential expansion of its activities and is set to play a prominent role in the aviation industry in Southeast Asia.

Improving Investment Cooperation in the Near Future

At the Government Conference attended by leaders of all Ministries and Localities on January 13, 1994, Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan, Chairman of the State Committee for Co-operation and Investment, reported on eight ways of overcoming shortcomings and recording greater achievements in the field of foreign cooperation and investment, namely:

1. Urgent formulation by the Government of policies to stimulate investment in the highland and central regions (to encourage forest planting and the long term cultivation of industrial crops), as well as an attempt to perfect the tax system. The State and National Assembly will also issue legal codes relevant to labour, commerce, real estate business, mining, etc., so as to establish a foundation on which investment can be encouraged.

2. Completion of two plans for investment in Export Processing Zone construction and certain spheres of production which tend to be fiercely competitive (beer manufacturing, motorcar and motorcycle assembly, etc.), within the second quarter of 1994.

3. Contribution of capital to joint ventures. Measures will be taken to prevent the Vietnamese partner from having to contribute capital mainly in the form of land, as was the case before. For example, different enterprises could be allowed to group together to contribute capital in order to cooperate with foreign partners, or capital could be mobilized from people (especially for projects with potentially high economic returns)

4. The Government has entrusted the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment and other specialized branches with the responsibility for formulating policies on the import of machinery and equipment.



Coal export at Cua Ong Port in Quang Ninh

Companies will be set up to provide accurate technical consultancy services.

5. Labour and wage regulations for employees working in enterprises in which foreign capital has been invested must be formulated, along with measures to ensure enforcement, so as to protect workers' legitimate rights and avoid unfortunate events of the past.

6. From the first quarter of 1994, government management of enterprises with foreign investment capital will be improved. As a result, many management procedures

will be simplified. Licences for projects under US\$ 5 million will be issued within 45 days and will be based mainly on the opinion of the localities (province or city) and of the ministry or economic or technical branch concerned with the project.

7. All procedures for implementing, advancing and evaluating investment projects will be simplified as much as possible.

8. At present, 2,000 Vietnamese employees are working in joint venture enterprises. These employees were recruited and selected by the localities and branches and their knowledge, experience and ability in investment activities with foreign countries is limited. The number of skilled workers is very few and we will therefore move towards competitive recruitment of officials to take part in joint venture operations. At the same time, schools will be opened and courses provided, as soon as possible, for the training of various officials.

As investment cooperation is no longer in the experimental stage, Vietnam has to make every effort to attract sources of foreign investment capital, to bring the total for the period 1991-2000 up to US\$ 14 billion, and thereby meet the needs of social-economic development.

Following the achievements gained in 1992 and 1993, the economic situation in the first six months of 1994 has continued developing in a positive trend bringing about overall progress in the fields of production communications, finance, currency and foreign economic relations at a growth rate higher than the same period of the previous year.

Agricultural production has recorded overall development in foodstuffs production, crop planting, animal husbandry, afforestation and exploitation of aqua products. The area for cultivating winter-spring rice is 2.36 million ha, an increase of 1.3 per cent over the previous year. The rice capacity of the Southern provinces on average attains 4,700 kg/ha, an increase of 800 kg/ha. In general the food production of this crop attains 1.1 million tonnes (unhusked rice is 10 MT), an increase of 1 million tonnes, promising the highest production ever. The rural economic mechanism has at the first step shifted to increasing the volume of industrial crops, trees of special products, cattle raising, and especially aquaculture and the development of trade in agriculture. The area for short-term industrial crops increased 31 per cent (soya, 29 per cent; peanuts, 23 per cent; tobacco, 11 per cent). Cattle raising continues to develop and meat production has attained over 50 per cent of the estimated target for the whole year, of which pork accounts for 58 per cent and the market for consumption has good prospects. The area for aquaculture is nearly 600,000 ha, an increase of 2 per cent with aqua products attaining 470,500 tonnes, an increase of 4.5 per cent. Forest fire and forest destruction for cultivation have decreased but illegal exploitation, trading and transportation of forestry products has occurred without effective measures being taken so far.

The growth rate of industrial production is stable and equal among



Festival at Hai Ba Trung Temple in Hanoi

economic sectors, cities and industrial centres. The pace is higher than the same period of many previous years. The value of industrial production has increased over 11 per cent compared to the first six months of 1993, of which, the central industry has increased 12 per cent, the local industry 10 per cent and the state industry 9 per cent. Many important products have brought big sources of budget thanks to continuous investment over many years; many production establishments have been bold enough to carry out intensive investment, renew equipment and technology and have a stable market

so the growth has been remarkable: crude oil increased 34 per cent; power, coal, steel, urea increased 9-10 per cent; cement, 15 per cent; tobacco, 17 per cent; beer, 28 per cent; canned milk, 37 per cent, etc. A number of provinces and cities have maintained a considerable growth rate: Hanoi, 30 per cent; HCMC, 10.5 per cent; Hai Phong, Quang Nam-Da Nang, Khanh Hoa, 20-25 per cent, etc. Local industry has developed unevenly among such provinces as Thanh Hoa, Long An, Vinh Long, Minh Hai, etc., whose growth rate has decreased compared to the same period last year.

Investment capital in basic construction is 45 per cent of the total investment capital of the country, lower than the same period last year by 4-5 per cent, but guaranteeing the process of building works in vital areas in power, communications and hydraulics. The last machine of Hoa Binh hydro-electric plant has been assembled; construction completion and commencement of operation of three gas turbines in Ba Ria; 220-kV power line of Ba Ria-Long Binh; road to the North of Thang Long Bridge and Noi Bai. Especially the 500 kV North-South transmission line, completed and under safe operation after many difficulties. After May

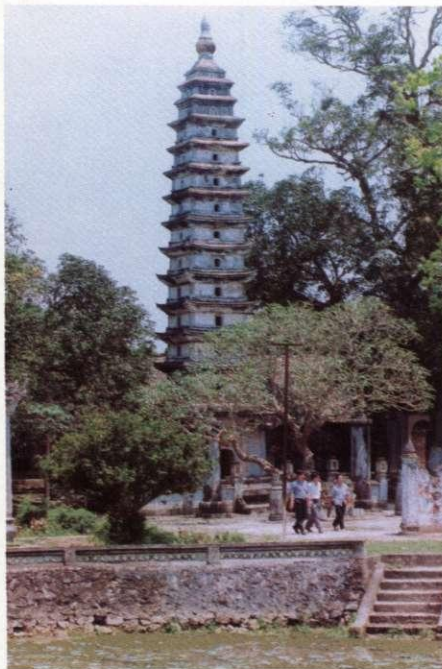


Thang Long Hotel in Hanoi

20, 1994, the system was tested before being joined to the national power grid and following satisfactory checks in early June, the power grid will officially operate to transmit power from North to South to develop chain efficiency in economic and social life.

Economic foreign relations have developed. The export turnover increased 27 per cent and the import turnover increased 23.4 per cent (this ratio of the same period last year was 17 per cent and 22 per cent). Except for newly-exported rice of 850,000 tonnes, decreasing a little from last year, other items have increased remarkably: peanuts, 24 per cent; tea, twofold; rubber, 8 per cent; coffee, 23 per cent; aqua products, 1.5 times; crude oil, 14 per cent. A number of imported goods like gasoline and oil have increased 5 per cent; urea, 21.5 per cent; steel, 72 per cent; raw cotton, 39 per cent; insecticides, raw materials, auto tyres and tubes are the same as last year, while cement attained 300,000 tonnes and sugar 50,000 tonnes. The official ODA financial source for the first quarter is twice as much as that of 1993. There are 185 direct foreign investment projects having licences with a registered capital of nearly US\$ 2 billion, equal to 65 per cent of 1993. The capital which is realised has increased higher than that of the same period of last year by 67 per cent. In general, since the promulgation of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam till now, licences have been granted to 862 projects with a total registered capital of US\$9.167 million (not including 152 projects with a capital of US\$876 million which have expired or their licences have been revoked). Up to now 45 provinces and 53 cities have had direct investment projects with foreign countries, of which HCM City has the highest number with 313 projects; Hanoi 122; Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Quang Nam-Da Nang with 25 projects each; and Hai Phong, 21.

Transportation branches have sought all measures to attract customers. The quality of transportation is better and can meet the needs of transporting goods and travel of the people. The encouraging thing is that the railroad branch has reduced the time of trains on railways from 72 hours by half. However, there are three problems in the situation of communications and transport which need to be solved: 1) The material and technical establishments in recent years have been improved but not sufficient to prevent them from being downgraded; 2) Urban communications still face difficulties, especially in Hanoi and HCM City, hindering economic growth; 3) The state management of transportation means, individuals and units performing services is not yet tightly controlled. Tax evasion is still serious; means of transportation are unsafe and many accidents have occurred due to violation of traffic laws.



Total level of retail sales increased 37.6 per cent against the same period of last year, of which state and collective business occupies a volume of 21.6 per cent. The main consumer goods like cloth, writing paper, soap, petroleum, foodstuffs and food are abundant and diversified, satisfying the people's needs.

Tourist activities are numerous. In the first six months of 1994 there were 500,000 foreign tourists and 1.9 million domestic tourists, resulting in increased turnover and contributions to the state budget. Infrastructure, means of travel and tourist spots have been upgraded but they have not yet fully addressed the requirements of tourists.

The receipts of domestic budget increased 50 per cent compared to the same period last year, of which taxes and fees increased 51.6 per cent but the State Budget suffered a great imbalance. Circulation of currency is easier than before and there is no severe shortage of cash. There are no great fluctuations in exchange rates and gold prices and credits

are widely expanded. Surplus of credit debts increased 23 per cent. The loan volume in the non-state sector, mainly farmers' households, increased from 30 per cent in 1993 to 40 per cent in the first six months of 1994.

Average prices in the first five months of 1994 increased much higher than the same period of the previous year but there has been no sudden change. Prices are relatively stable and the price of goods and services only increased in February 1994 (+3.7 per cent), mainly in food, foodstuffs and services on the occasion of the lunar New Year. In Jan, 1994 prices increased 1.8 per cent; in March prices decreased 0.4 per cent; in April prices increased 0.3 per cent and in May they increased 0.6 per cent. If, in the last months of this year the market situation, world prices, and especially exports and imports do not alter to our disadvantage, and if the government takes measures to curb inflation, it is possible that inflation can be kept under 10 per cent as planned at the beginning of this year.

With achievement, gained in the first six months of 1994, the remaining task of the last six months is to increase the growth of GDP to at least 8 per cent. According to the report of the government at the fifth session of the 9th Congress of the National Assembly, we have to supplement our policy and find solutions to completing the task well in 1994 and preparing for 1995 as follows: "To continue consolidating and stabilising finance and currency, especially to keep the budget balanced; exploit the capacity of increasing receipts and curb inflation at a level of one digit; to guarantee the construction of important works; to create conditions for stimulating investment in economic sectors; to expand economic foreign relations; to improve the environment for attracting direct foreign investment, and to seriously carry out the Resolution of the National Assembly about practicing thrift, combatting waste, corruption and smuggling."

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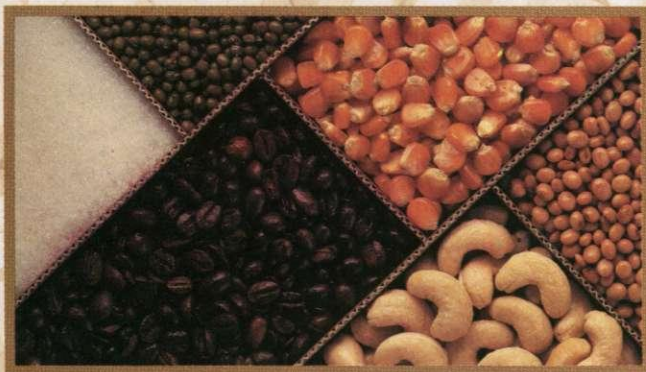
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We extend our heartiest congratulations
to all the people of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
on the happy occasion
of your National Day.



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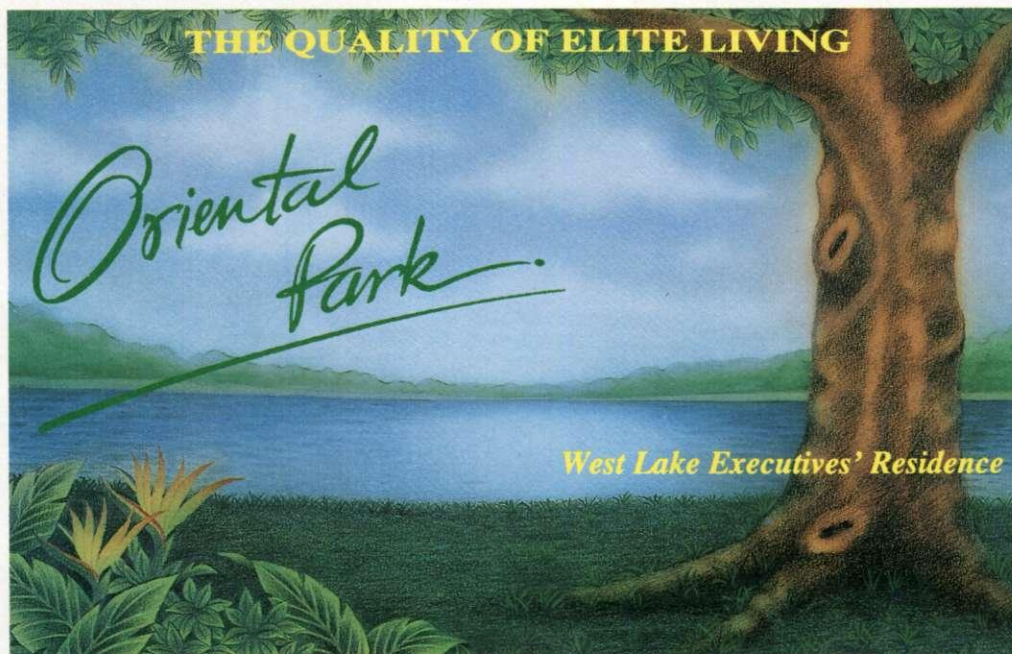
VIETNAM

Congratulations

We wish a long - lasting peace,
happiness, and prosperity to
the people of **The Socialist Republic
of Vietnam** on the occasion of their
National Day on **September 2, 1994**



**We celebrate Vietnam's National Day with the entire
nation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.**



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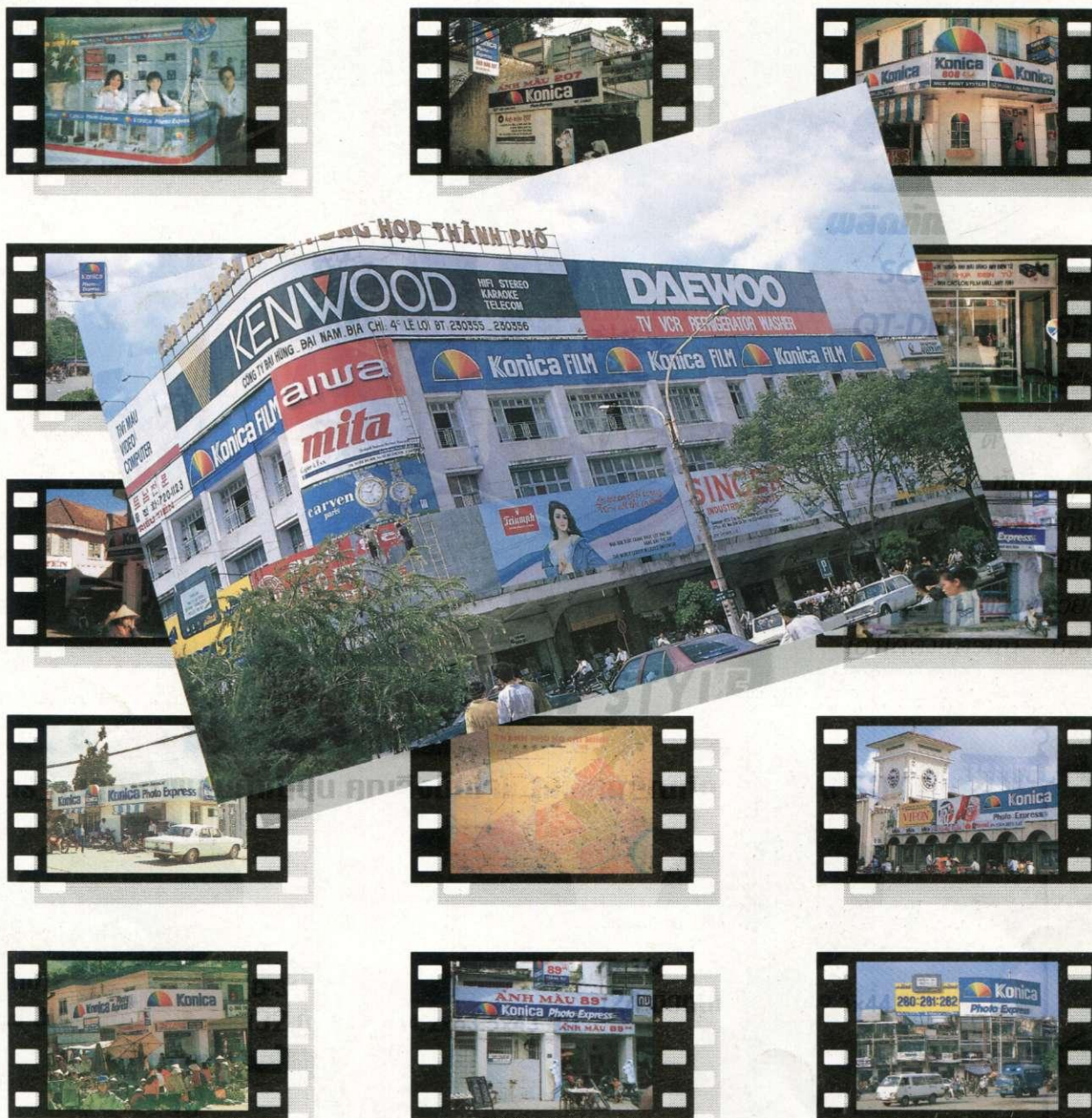
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VIETNAM ON THE
OCCASION OF THEIR
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NOW MEMORIES ARE ALL THE MORE UNFORGETTABLE.

OUR QUALITY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

Konica

